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Title: Need to provide pension benefits to the employees of Regional Rural Banks in the country.

SHRI RAJAIAH SIRICILLA (WARANGAL): I would like to draw the attention of the Government regarding the need to take steps for the provision of pension to the employees of Regional Rural Banks in the country.

At present, 62 Regional Rural Banks are functioning with Rs. 352 Lakh crore financial outlay covering. They also provide financial assistance for up-gradation of skills, training, petty businesses and small scale industries. They are financing 2.75 crore number of families out of 13.56 crore customers. Out of the above, Rs. 1.78 crore are related to agriculture production. The Banks are scattered in the remote places of the country. The employees live in remote areas which is categorized as bad climate.

These banks are accessible to rural mass of the country and providing 75% of the loans not only to poor but also to average families. If we compare the rural banks with nationalised banks, the coverage of rural families in rural banks is 85% with an outlay of 1.45 lakh crore, whereas with the same outlay the nationalised banks will cover not even 15% families. It is not out of place to mention that the heavy loans taken by big industrialists are very often written off, whereas in rural banks, it is 5% NPA.

In view of the above facts, I request the Hon'ble Minister for Finance, to take necessary steps to extend the Banking pension facilities to the employees working in rural banks.